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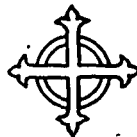
GRACE
CHURCH

ASKATOON
ASKATCHEWAN



GOLDEN
JUBILEE

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1886—1936



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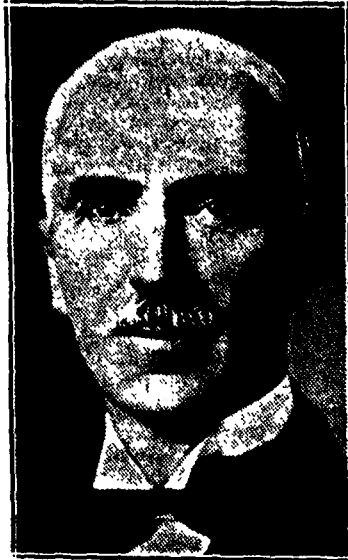
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.. Foreword ..

WHEN Grace Church began preparation for its Jubilee Celebration there was a feeling that its history of the past fifty years should be written to give our people the facts and help them to realize something of the faith and courage which those of the early days possessed. Fortunately, the minutes of the meeting that formed the first congregation, and all the minutes since that time, have been preserved by the Church Board and were available to the Historical Committee—R. B. Irvine, W. J. Young, Frank Holmes, Dr. J. A. Snell and Dr. J. L. Stewart. Much of the credit for the production of this history is due Dr. Stewart who wrote it after procuring the facts from reliable sources.

Many of the "Old Guard" who started this church 50 years ago have passed to their reward and this book is written in grateful memory to them and to those who now serve elsewhere, as well as a tribute to those still with us. Some will witness this Celebration with a thrill of satisfaction as they consider the progress made from these early beginnings, and it is hoped this history will give a vision to our younger generation so that as they take the torch from falling hands they will continue to make the future even more glorious than the past.

—C. M. Curtis.



**The Right Reverend Peter Bryce,
Moderator United Church
of Canada**

Greetings to Grace Church

421 Wesley Buildings,
Toronto 2, Canada
October 16th, 1936

Rev. C. M. Curtis, B.A., B.D.,
428 10th Street
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Mr. Curtis:

In our comparatively young national life, fifty years is a very considerable period of time, enough indeed for good things to find a modest beginning and to grow from more to more until they take on the final quality of goodness that gives them a place among the great things.

One thinks of this when the Golden Jubilee of a congregation like Grace Church, Saskatoon, is announced for celebration, and one is glad to know that this Church, which was the first unit of Christian influence and helpfulness in Saskatoon, a half a century ago, is now only one of many such units that appeared later.

It is most gratifying to learn from the public records, anyone may read, that you and your people of Grace Church continue to maintain the splendid traditions of the long programme of unselfish services inherited from your fathers and predecessors. I desire, in offering my felicitations and congratulations at this time, to express the hope that the history of your loved church may encourage you to plan for still larger and finer achievements in the name and spirit of our Lord in the days to come.

At such a time as this, there will be recalled very tender memories of the comrades who have climbed ahead of you and are at home with God. What hallowed memories these are. How rich we are to possess them. But it is only as we allow them to win us to a more loving life and incite us to do God's will among our fellow men, that these memories can be regarded as having value and I am persuaded that they will have this high value for you.

With very cordial greetings to you personally and to all your officials, members and adherents, I am

Very sincerely yours,

PETER BRYCE



**Rev. John Nicol, D.D.
President of Conference**

Anniversary Preacher, Morning, Nov. 8, 1936

308 Birks Bldg.,
Saskatoon, Sask.,
October 26, 1936.

To the Minister, Officials and Congregation
of Grace United Church, Saskatoon.

Fifty years in the history of churches in the Old Lands may be looked upon as a short time. Fifty years of history of congregations in a young country like Saskatchewan is entirely different, and few congregations in this Province date their founding so far back.

The efforts of your congregation for the first fifty years, just closed, have been honourable, important and highly influential in moulding the religious and moral life, not only of Saskatoon, but also of the Province.

As President of Conference, may I be allowed to express to you most hearty greetings and words of appreciation for what you have done and for the things for which you have stood.

You can rightly take a pride in your achievements in things spiritual, moral and educational, carried forward under eminent and divinely guided leadership.

My prayer is that those who follow may be worthy of those who have gone before, and that those who now make up the Membership of Grace Church may dedicate themselves anew so that the high ideals of the past may be perpetuated, and the task so well begun and continued for fifty years may in years to come see a fruition of still greater glory—all things being carried on in the spirit of Our Master who is the Supreme and only Head of the Church.

Kindly accept my congratulations and hearty greetings on this very memorable occasion.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN L. NICOL,
President of Saskatchewan Conference.

. . . Historical . . .

Sunday, August 20th, 1882, was an historic day for the City of Saskatoon. It was during the forenoon of that day that its first Christian service was held and during the afternoon that its name "Saskatoon" was selected.

There had been other memorable dates during the previous months: July 1881 when in Toronto the idea of buying a big block of land in the great West was first mooted; June '82 when after much negotiation the Temperance Colonization Society was fully organized and a Commission chosen to select 2,000,000 acres for the enterprise; July '82 when ten men, John N. Lake, Commissioner for the Society, G. W. Grant, Assistant Commissioner, S. W. Hill an expert farmer as advisor, F. L. Blake, surveyor, Harry Goodwin, James Hamilton and son Robert, Peter Latham, John Clark and James M. Eby, prospective settlers, together with three workmen, reached this district.

Regarding the name, we are informed that the first selection was "Minnetonka," then this interesting statement from Mr. Lake:

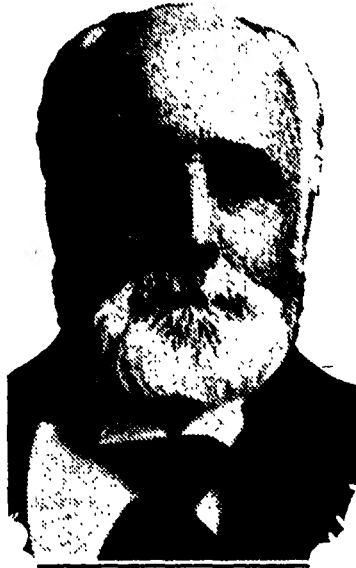
"While lying in my tent on Sunday afternoon, one of the chain bearers brought me a handful of beautiful red berries. I asked him the name. He said they called them Saskatoons. In an instant I remarked: 'Arise, Saskatoon, Queen of the North'."

Regarding the Christian Service of the morning, we have also this from his pen, for Mr. Lake, in young manhood a Methodist minister, was not alone Commissioner but Christian Leader:

"Preached at 11 a.m. to ten persons, four of whom came three miles on foot. Text: Heb. XI: 12-13."

He tells us nothing of the nature of his discourse, but possibly his comments on v. 12 would be prophetic of the days to come to these prairies in city and countryside, bringing a population "many as the stars of the sky in multitude," while v. 14 might well emphasize the opportunity opening to the adventurers about to receive "the promises."

Such sentiments are but a surmise, but certain it is that these earliest pioneers possessed to the full a fine spirit of faith and optimism, an inestimable gift, which abides with their successors still. Indeed it has been this spirit, more than any material bequests, which has made our citizens conquerors over bitterest of circumstances and it has been the high calling of Grace and her later sister churches as no other agencies to perpetuate that spirit amid days of hunger and thirst, cold and heat, drifting and drought, rusts and frosts, plagues and perils, from that simple Sunday service until today. It is therefore with gratitude to God that Grace Church looks back to find herself in closest historic succession with that eventful scene.



James M. Eby

THE PIONEER YEARS

The year 1883 brought the advance guard of that stream of adventurers who were to attempt a permanent settlement and become creators of the community. A well authenticated list places the total settlers for this season at over seventy-five. One of the first to return was James M. Eby. He had spent the winter in Prince Albert and now brought Mrs. Eby and their children Eliza, James, William and Manley. This family has during the years proved to be one of the most consecrated of the earliest pioneers and is the only one whose descendants worship in Grace today.

Each new arrival was responsible for the erection of his own home, almost invariably a one-roomed shack made of poplar poles and prairie sods. Late in August some rafts of building material arrived by river from Medicine Hat and a structure with a "double store front" known as the "Company Building" was erected. Silas Lake and some others "put up buildings, mere shells, but which entitled them to a free lot" on the new town site. Such hasty and humble constructions served to house the church, school and other community interests for some days to come.

THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

It is scarce necessary to say that religious services were not neglected. The Temperance Colonization Society originated with sober, God-fearing men, namely Methodist ministers and laymen and those of kindred aims. Dr. George M. Grant, famed President of Queen's



University (Presbyterian) "gave the enterprise a great impetus at the Toronto Exhibition in September, 1881." Individuals of other communions joined. We have already seen how the soil was consecrated by a service the previous year. This new season and the years to follow were to be permeated by the same spirit. Here is the report of one of that early group:

"Sunday services were held from 1883. In that year they were held in a tent. J. N. Lake, Commissioner, was usually leader. After he left the services were usually held in the Silas Lake building, with Silas Lake, his brother, leading. In 1884, neither of the Lakes returned to Saskatoon. The services were then held by the people themselves. Someone would read a sermon. If a missionary or clergyman happened to be passing through, they would enlist his services. As the school progressed to better accommodation (in the Company Building and then the Stone School House) the church services followed." "The school," we read further, "was well equipped with maps presented by the Society . . . The furniture was home-made, the seats being benches." But the rough character of the latter mattered little.

The part the church played in sustaining their community spirit is shown in the statement of Mr. Eby:

"In the old days when settlers were few and all personally known to each other, our church services partook somewhat of the nature of family gatherings. We came from all points of the compass to Saskatoon and made an afternoon of it. First came Sabbath School, then the Preaching Service and then the Class Meeting. After that there was a time for social chat and fellowship." The Church was clearly the spiritual and social centre.

In this fine spirit, three years sped swiftly by. The third, 1885, was marked by the Riel Rebellion. The whole tribe of Sioux Indians from the Moose Woods Reserve appeared one morning under instructions to "wipe out" the new settlement. A parley ensued in which spokesmen for the colony sought to give "friendly advice." The "advice" was not taken for the band pursued its way northward to join Riel at Batoche, but the "friendly" spirit succeeded so that neither person nor property was molested. Doubtless the church here also played her part for from earliest days the settlers treated the Sioux with Christian courtesy. The settlers resolved therefore, "To go to our homes and about our daily business in the fear of the Lord."

THE FIRST CHURCH ORGANIZED

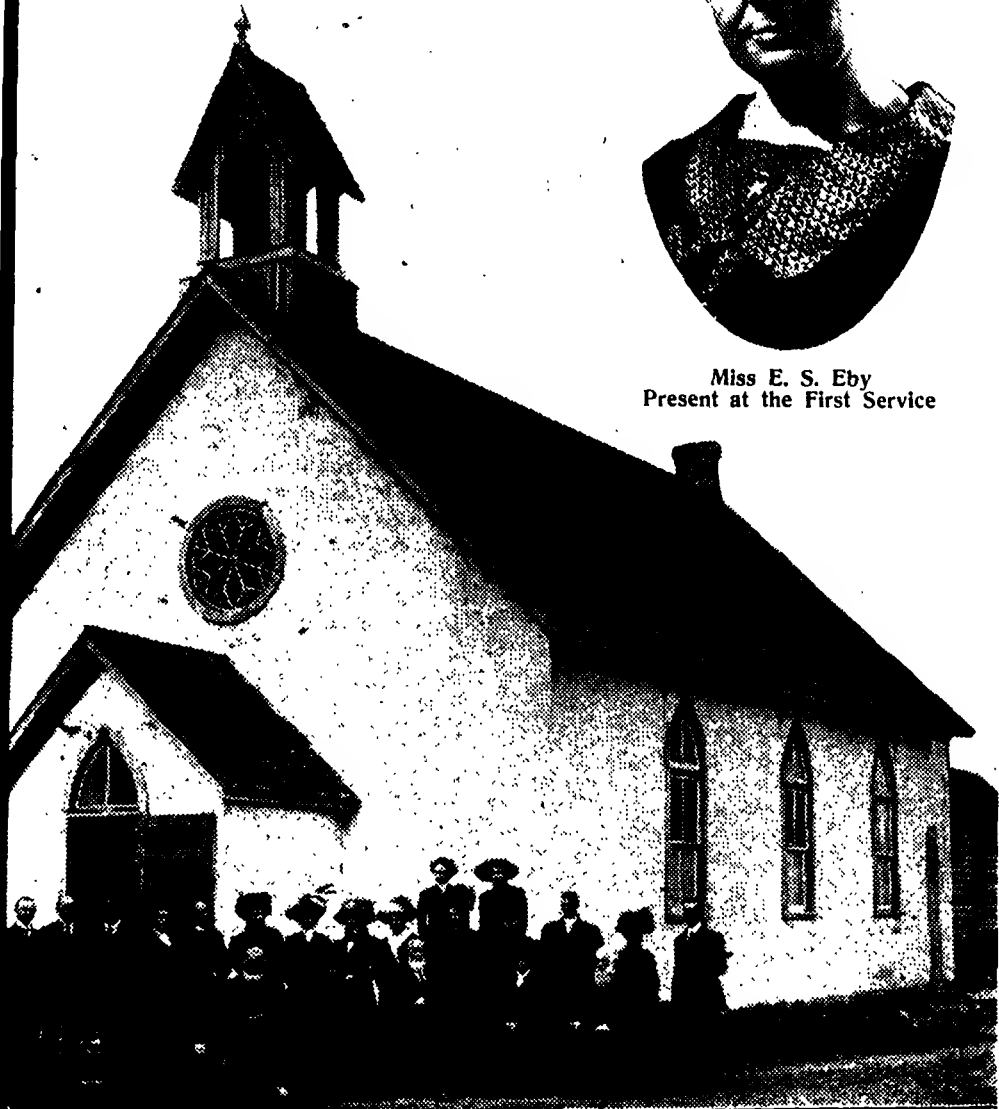
The year 1886 recorded a real religious advance. It was the first church organization. The record reads:

"Saskatoon Mission, Regina District, Manitoba and North-West Territory of the Methodist Church. The first Quarterly Official Meeting was held in the School House, Saskatoon, on Wednesday, August 18th, 1886. Rev. Alfred Andrews of Qu'Appelle, Chairman of District in the chair.

"Bro. Henry Smith appointed Class Leader. Bro. E. Wooldridge recognized as Local Preacher. Bros. R. Mason, A. Smith and E. Wooldridge appointed Church Stewards for Saskatoon and Bro. Lake



Miss E. S. Eby
Present at the First Service



The Pioneer Church, 1892-1910

for Clark's Crossing. Church Trustees: Henry Smith, Peter Latham, James M. Eby, E. Wooldridge, Archie Smith, James Powe and R. Mason. Church Building Committee: Henry Trounce, Robert McCordick, Robt. Dulmage, Jas. Powe and Dr. Willoughby."

Others who appear prominently on the records as religious workers connected with the old Church from 1883 to 1903 include: Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Dulmage, Mrs. G. Fletcher, Mrs. Powe, Mrs. Wm. Stephenson, Mrs. Eby, Miss E. S. Eby, Jas. Leslie, D. Lusk, W. R. Tucker, Thos. Copeland, W. P. Bate, George Horne, D. S. King, R. B. Irvine, R. Barber, F. J. Searles, L. Kirkpatrick, G. Frazer, J. E. Taylor, Frank Holmes. After 1903, the Barr colonists passed through and many new settlers arrived. The names of leaders become much more diverse, and it is to be feared in what follows, some worthy workers in various departments may have been unintentionally omitted.

SUCCESSIVE PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship have been many during Grace's fifty years of history. From '83 to '93, we learn, they worshipped in "open tents," in "a sod stable," in Mrs. Dulmage's "large roomy kitchen," and in Mrs. Fletcher's "comfortable front room," in the "Silas Lake" structure, the "Company Building" and the "Stone School." Then at a Board Meeting of January 25, '92, we read: "Resolved that the time has come to erect a church, cost to approximate \$1,200 and that the site offered by the Temperance Colonization Society be accepted." That site, set aside in the original survey for a Methodist Church and known as "Lot A, Block 62, Plan Q1, with 150 feet on Eastlake and 140 feet on 10th Street, has been used by Grace ever since. On it was erected in '92-'93 the first Church building in Saskatoon, a white lime and gravel structure which with its cupola was a land-mark for many miles around. William Stephenson was builder and W. A. Sipprell, Missionary.

This with several enlargements served the cause until 1910 when the congregation having grown greatly, it was decided to build a much larger structure of brick. The old church was demolished and the Sunday School portion of the present church was erected, James M. Eby laying the corner stone, Rev. J. W. Pratt, pastor. Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, preached the sermon at dedication, E. Val Tilton, pastor. This served for all purposes for the next 18 years. A significant motion of May 27th, 1910, had to do with the church name. Up to this date it had been known simply as the "Methodist Mission Church, Saskatoon" and later as "Saskatoon East" or "First Methodist Church." The resolution read:

"Moved by Messrs. Irvine and Eby that the request of the Trustee Board that the name be changed to Grace Church, be granted."

This was in honor of Mrs. Grace H. Fletcher, who had been an ardent worker from the earliest days, and who at her death in 1907, had bequeathed the splendid sum of \$4,500 to the cause so dear to her heart.



Mrs. Grace H. Fletcher

A start on a new church structure was made in 1912, when the foundations of the present church were put in. Financial stringency and later the war led to suspension of further operations.

By the year 1927, however, the congregation could not well be accommodated longer in the Sunday School rooms, so it was decided to complete the building. The result is the present splendid structure of red brick with its stately architecture and beautiful stained glass windows. The total value of the property including the site, church building, furnishings and organ is placed at \$125,000. It has a main auditorium and gallery with a combined seating capacity of approximately 750, a pastor's study, a commodious Sunday School building with main room, gallery and class rooms, and in its airy basement another assembly room and committee rooms, also a ladies' parlor, kitchen, serving room, pantries, heating plant and other accompaniments of the modern church.

The foundation stone was laid on Thanksgiving Day, November 7th, 1927, by the Rev. Dr. Charles Endicott, President of Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada. The then pastor was Rev. Dr. R. Lorne McTavish. Rev. Dr. J. A. MacKeigan, Moose Jaw, President of Conference preached the dedication service on opening day, October 14th, 1928. The builder was Mr. Charles M. Miners, the Building Committee: W. M. Brooke, Chairman, Messrs. W. B. Doyle, E. A. Hardy, H. McConnell, Secretary-Treasurer, H. G. Merkley and A. S. Walker, and the Furnishings Committee: A. W. Cameron, Chairman, P. F. Copeland, Secretary, Dr. C. Endicott, F. Holmes and W. J. Young.

MISSIONARIES AND MINISTERS

The missionaries and ministers who have served the church since its organization in 1886, are as follows (The church year was from July to June):

- 1886-1887—James M. Wright (superannuated, in Brantford, Ont.).
- 1887-1888—F. W. Hodgson (retired, Laguna Beach, Calif., U.S.A.).
- 1888-1890—John Peters (later left the ministry).
- 1890-1891—Geo. H. Bennet (superannuated, in Saskatoon).
- 1891-1892—A. E. Roberts (superannuated, in Vancouver).
- 1892-1893—W. A. Sipprell (resigned from the ministry in 1899).
- 1893-1894—Egbert Gregory (resigned from the ministry in 1895).
- 1894-1896—T. G. Bethell, B.D. (superannuated, in Regina).
- 1896-1900—John Linton (Snowflake, Man.).
- 1900-1903—Arthur Barner, D.D. (Supt. Indian Missions, Toronto).
- 1903-1904—G. H. Chant (went to U.S.A.).
- 1904-1905—F. Atkinson (went to U.S.A.).
- 1905-1907—Geo. Marshall (minister, Nipawin, Sask.).
- 1907-1908—Peter Webster (minister, Steyner, Ont.).
- 1908-1910—J. W. Pratt, B.A. (minister, Zion Church, Moose Jaw).
- 1910-1914—E. Val Tilton (minister, Waterloo, Ont.).
- 1914-1915—R. H. Leitch (deceased).
- 1915-1916—H. T. Lewis (deceased).
- 1916-1920—Chas. Endicott, D.D. (secretary, M. & M., Saskatoon).
- 1920-1924—Chas. W. Brown, B.A., D.D. (deceased).
- 1924-1932—R. L. McTavish, D.D. (minister, Hamilton, Ont.).
- 1932—C. M. Curtis, B.A., B.D. (present minister, Grace Church).

OTHERS SERVING AND SERVED

Previous to 1895 Grace Church was served with unordained preachers. As these were not qualified to preside at meetings of the Quarterly Official Board we find the following stalwarts visited Saskatoon for the purpose: Rev. Alfred Andrews, Rev. J. M. Harrison, Rev. Dr. James Woodsworth, Rev. Thomas Ferrier and Rev. Dr. Oliver Darwin.

As the pioneer centre in religious work in the new settlement Grace Church has been during her fifty years called upon to serve a much wider constituency than today. Thus at various times she has been the head of a circuit for such points as Clark's Crossing, Moose Woods Reserve, Dundurn, Smithville, Floral, West Saskatoon (later Third Avenue), Blackley, Garrison (S.E.), Lone Star (S.E.), Evansvale (East), Strawberry Valley (N.E.), Coates (S.E.), Victor (S.).

Serving so many centres Grace did not depend upon her missionaries and ministers alone. Her lay leaders also took a share of the regular preaching duties. Thus we find a succession of "Local Preachers" with such worthies as E. J. Wooldridge, J. M. Eby, R. B. Irvine, Leslie Kirkpatrick, M. F. Eby and others, and another order of "Exhorters" including W. R. Tucker and Charles Eagle (later chief of the Sioux Indians) of the Moose Woods Reserve. Still others acted as local "Class Leaders" beginning with Henry Smith in '86 and ending so far as records show with Rev. Hugh Cairns at the time of church

union. Such workers have been discontinued since then, a departure open to serious question.

Mr. James M. Eby, Sr., was Recording Steward almost continuously from 1886 to 1908, and Mr. Frank Holmes from that date until now.

GRACE MANSE

The missionaries of the pioneer years, being unmarried, found a home in the often small but hospitable households of their people. Between 1895 and 1900 when the first married men served the field, a house was secured for them in the 300 block on 11th Street. This being found too small, a resolution of 1900 reads: "Resolved that the Trustee Board be instructed to purchase Mr. Sinclair's property, consisting of house and lot with a good stable, for a parsonage, the price asked being \$500 with interest at 7% until paid." This house, now 326 11th Street, served until after 1905 when Third Avenue becoming the ordained field and Grace again a mission, the latter was left without a parsonage. When in 1910 an ordained minister again served Grace, 430 10th Street was purchased. This was exchanged for the present Manse, 428 10th Street in 1914.

MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Membership during significant periods of Grace's history has been as follows: In 1886, the year of organization, it was 21, at the time of new church building in 1893 it was 48, in 1910, 102, in 1928, 595, and at present 1936, it totals an all time high of 645 with 1150 persons under pastoral oversight.

The activities of the church members during the early days of the church were largely carried on by the Quarterly Official Board with three Auxiliaries, viz. Church Stewards, Trustees and a Sunday School organization. Today the work is divided among such diverse organizations as Cubs and Boy Scouts, C.G.I.T., Young Peoples, Junior Church, the Choir, the W.M.S. with its subsidiaries of Baby Band, Mission Band, Young Women's Groups, the W.A. with its several Circles, the Sunday School with Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Departments and Boys' Clubs, the Trustee Board, the Stewards and the Session, Men's Organizations, each with various committees, all such organizations working in general under the Official Board. But a brief word can be recorded concerning these many groups.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Miss Eliza S. Eby, herself one of the earliest Sunday School scholars recalls for us first meetings of classes and church in a sod stable with unbroken prairie for a floor, a wild rose bush in the centre in full bloom bestowing its benediction. The very first meeting of the Quarterly Board officially instituting a church also inaugurated a Sunday School. We read: "Wednesday, August 18th, 1886—Sunday School was then organized. Superintendent, Peter Latham; Assistant, H. Trounce; Bible Class Teacher, Jas. M. Eby, Sr.; Other Teachers, Mrs. Fletcher and Robt. Hamilton; Secretary-Treasurer, R. Hamilton." The May meeting

of the Quarterly Board in '87 records: "Sunday School scholars: In Primary Class, 10; Intermediate, 8; Bible Class, 12."

The 35 scholars, officers and teachers have increased now to 527. The one small school has become three, and finances have changed from a first recorded "paid for S.S. expenses \$3.50," to a fine contribution today of \$590. References frequently from early years to such matters as library, S.S. papers, graded lessons, teacher training, Christmas entertainments, temperance pledges, missions, are suggestive of the efficient character of the training given.

Peter Latham has had many worthy successors as Superintendents during the fifty years. These include David Lusk, R. B. Irvine, W. B. Eby, Frank Holmes, A. C. McEown (1908-1914), A. W. Cameron, H. McConnell, H. G. Merkley, W. J. Young, C. Marshall and P. M. McCarrell. G. W. Stainsby long acted as Secretary, and others during the years gave splendid service.

Officers and Teachers of the School at present are:

General Officers: General Superintendent, M. J. Sexsmith; General Secretary, Edward Parr; Enrolment, Howard Gerry; Missionary, Dr. J. L. Stewart; Temperance, R. Trickey; Treasurer (for over 25 years), F. A. Robinson; Lantern Operator, Jack McGregor.

Senior Department: Superintendent, Prof. E. A. Hardy; Secretary, Bruce Hunter. Dr. Ira A. McKay in earlier days conducted a Bible Class in the Department with conspicuous success, as did also Mr. W. B. Doyle in later years.

Junior and Intermediate Department: Superintendent, C. C. Nicholson.

Primary Department: Superintendent, Mrs. Running; Secretary, Ruby Faithful.



Sunday School Picnic, 1907

The Boys' Club connected with the School meets on Sunday mornings at ten. It is divided into three groups for study and discussion. During the week it carries on such activities as sports, camps and various social meets and eats. It also holds itself responsible for the annual Dads' and Lads' Service on Sunday and the Banquet on Monday.

Officers at present are: Advisers, Mr. Frank B. McEown and Prof. E. A. Hardy; President, Jimmie Stewart; Vice-President, Dugald Blue; Secretary-Treasurer, Willison Rayner.

THE CHOIR

Music has been an essential of Grace Church services from the first. Before the days of a choir or organ we are told that, "Mrs. Eby, Mrs. Powe and Mrs. Wm. Stephenson were always ready to start a tune and all loved to sing." The first organ was presented to the University and now rests in the first school building on the University grounds as a souvenir of pioneer days. Mr. W. P. Bate was the first organist and choir leader and has been followed by many well-known musicians including: Frank Holmes, Mr. Newcombe, Mrs. Reaney, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Riddle, Mr. Jessup, Mrs. R. M. Campbell (Miss C. Cairns).



Lectern and Choir Gallery

In the above picture are shown the Lectern, some of the Memorial Windows and the Choir Loft. On either side of the Choir Loft are installed the Pipes of a three manual Casavant Electric Organ with Chimes. This Organ was dedicated in February, 1929, and in August of that year Mr. Lynwood Farnam, who sanctioned the whole scheme of the organ, gave a recital, the proceeds of which were donated to the Organ Fund.

The present choir consisting of some 60 voices has as officers: James M. Eby, Jr., President; Mr. C. Coates, Secretary; Mr. W. S. Fish, Organist, and Mr. Peter F. Copeland, Leader. Under the latter's enthusiastic guidance the choir not only supports the regular services with anthems, solos and male choruses, but conspicuously contributes to the cause of choice music for the whole church and city by presenting such high works as the Messiah, Elijah, Judas Maccabaeus, the Creation, the Last Judgment, Mount of Olives, Samson, and many smaller works. The Grace Church Choir carried off the much coveted honor of first place in the province in the annual Musical Festivals for the years 1925 and 1926, and for the year 1927 won both its own class shield and the championship shield for the province.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

The first record of a young people's group is in the year 1895. It runs: "Bro. Bethell reported the E.L. of C.E. as in a favorable condition." Evidently the missionary of the day, Mr. Bethell was in charge, and the organization was the then combination of the Methodist Epworth League and the more general Christian Endeavor so that it might embrace the young people of all denominations. When it met, who constituted its members or what were its special functions we are not informed. Doubtless, however, like its sister societies of the time it was divided into such activities as religious, missionary, literary and social. It later, as other churches instituted their own young people's groups, functioned simply as an Epworth League. One of its high water years financially was in 1919, when it subscribed the fine sum of \$217 for missions.

At present Grace Church Young People's Society meets on Sunday evenings after the regular church service. Religious exercises form a part of each program followed by addresses on topics of interest to youth, music and debates. The latter activity has been especially popular during the last year owing to inter-society debates with other young people's organizations. In this the Grace group acquitted itself splendidly being in the semi-finals. A social time with refreshments at the close of the sessions adds to the good-will of the group.

The officers at present are: Honorary President, Rev. C. M. Curtis, B.A., B.D.; President, Don Leard; Vice-Presidents, Thomas Brown, Myra Holmes; Secretary, Edith Underwood; Treasurer, Kenneth Black; Convenor, Jean McNeil.

BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS

Boy Scouts began in Grace in 1915 with Mr. Kissick as Scoutmaster. It was discontinued, however, in 1917, to stress the C.S.E.T. program. In 1930 it was again revived under Mr. S. V. Hubble who organized a Wolf Cub Pack. At present the Cubs number over 40 and the Scouts approximately 20 members. The latter are now under the able leadership of Mr. Dick Voorsmit, while the former, until quite recently, have been long led by Mr. W. H. Eagle.

A conscientious effort is made to follow the well-known world-wide Scout program which stands for honor and obedience, proficiency





Grace United Church, Dedicated October 14th



Rev. C. M. Curtis, B.A., B.D.



Congregation October 18th, 1936



and service equipping boys for useful citizenship. In addition to their own weekly activities, Grace groups have taken their share in camps and many community matters sponsored by the Scouts of the City. A parents' association, known as the Twelfth Group Association assumes responsibility for the work of the organizations.

The officers are: President, Prof. John G. Rayner; Vice-Presidents, Dr. R. J. McEwen, F. W. Marsland; Acting Secretary, W. H. Eagle.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church is conducted on alternative Sundays with the Mission Band, the Juniors leaving the regular service during the second hymn. The first Junior Church was started by Dr. and Mrs. Meuser in 1930. After a year it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Blue who guided it during the next two years. At present Mrs. G. W. Harrington is in charge assisted by Jean Comrie and Frances Harrington. The average attendance is about 35 and the collection approximately \$1.

An opening worship period consisting of scripture reading and scripture story includes all, then the smaller children separate into a class room for an appropriate story and crayon coloring. The older members have a more advanced story and other occupations.

CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

This is one of the more recent organizations of the general Church. Started in Canada in 1915, it was organized in Grace the following year with a dozen girls. This year it has seven groups totalling 115 girls between the ages of 12 and 18 and the Golden Key group for girls under twelve.

Its well-known objects are to cherish health, seek truth, know God and serve others. Its activities include in addition to regular programs, an annual C.G.I.T. Church Service followed on Monday evening by the Mother-Daughter Banquet, a "stunt night," Christmas boxes to needy families and gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., for File Hills and other mission fields. Each year the C.G.I.T. affiliates with the W.M.S. for study, last year studying "Africa" as a mission field.

The officers for 1935-36 are: President, Grace Blakeley; Vice-President, Gwenne Kragero; Secretary, Grace Porter; Treasurer, Jean Allwood; Pianist, Jean Comrie; Song Leader, Dorothy Brown; Superintendent, Mrs. E. Shore.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Among the most active organizations of Grace from her establishment have been those of her women. The Ladies' Aid was evidently organized the first year, 1886, with Mrs. Grace Fletcher, Mrs. James Leslie, Mrs. James Powe, Mrs. Stephenson and others as members. Our earliest record is from 1907, when we read: "Ladies' Aid President, Mrs. R. B. Irvine reported 10 members and meetings every two weeks." In those days they held themselves chiefly responsible for the furnishings of the parsonage. Now known as the Women's Association they have greatly extended their responsibilities, have paid some \$6,000 on the new church furnishings and are at present engaged in paying off the

mortgage on the church organ. In addition to its general meetings, the W.A. works through Circles covering different sections. These raise funds through teas, sales of home cooking, quilts, bazaars and systematic giving. Through committees they visit the sick and needy and are also affiliated with other women's organizations of the city.

Before Union in 1925 such workers as Mesdames Garnett, Nesbitt, C. B. Miners, W. L. Smith, Miss Fletcher, and A. C. McEown, and since, Mesdames Carmichael and C. M. Miners, are among the presidents who have guided W.A. affairs. Many committees and officers indicate the extensive nature of W.A. activities today. Honorary Presidents, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Endicott; Advisory Committee, Mesdames A. C. McEown, Garnett, Carmichael, Nesbitt, Miners; President, Mrs. G. E. Miller; First Vice-President, Mrs. Leard; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Fenton; Secretary, Mrs. Squarebriggs; Treasurer, Mrs. Trickey; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Walden; Pianist, Mrs. Roth; Strangers' Secretaries, Mrs. C. M. Miners, Mrs. Rae; Travellers' Aid, Mrs. A. C. McEown, Mrs. Guthrie; V.O.N., Mrs. Harrington; Local Council, Mrs. Trickey, Mrs. Collard, Mrs. E. C. Brown; Parsonage Committee, Mrs. Guest, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. McMahon; St. Andrew's Guild, Mrs. A. S. Walker, Mrs. E. C. Campbell; Flower Committee, Mrs. W. Perry, Mrs. H. Parr.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The W.M.S. is another of the women's organizations which has been active during many years. First organized in 1900 with Mrs. (Rev.) Arthur Barner as President. Miss Eliza S. Eby was elected to its presidency in 1902 and held the office for several years. A report by the latter as late as 1907 shows the society still "in the days of small things." It reads: "Membership 18, average attendance 8, raised by member's fees \$7." Under such presiding officers as Mrs. Rayner, Mrs. Hugh Cairns, Mrs. Channel and Mrs. Guest before Union, and Mesdames Doyle, Millson, Donnell, McCarroll and Lawson since, the society has made remarkable progress.

Today the local auxiliary in addition to its main body functions through several groups, including The Eliza Eby Evening Auxiliary with Miss Norah McMahon as President and Miss Nettie Stevenson as Secretary, two Mission Circles one under the superintendency of Mrs. E. N. Meuser with Miss Muriel Clancy as President and Miss Maxine Hurst as Secretary, and the other under the superintendency of Mrs. H. V. Gordon, with Miss Margaret Gordon as President and Miss Leona Hunt as Secretary, and a Mission Band with Mrs. L. S. Cummings as leader. Eight C.G.I.T. groups are also affiliated. The highest amount raised for missions was in 1927 when the fine total of \$912 was reached. Studies of the various fields in which our church works are a regular part of the program.

The officers are at present: President, Mrs. Thomas Lawson; First Vice-President, Mrs. M. J. Sexsmith; Second Vice-President, Mrs. A. W. Cameron; Recording Secretary, Mrs. R. J. Reynolds; Treasurer, Mrs. H. V. Gordon.

THE SESSION

A Session is a body new to Grace organization since Union. At that time in conformity with the Manual nine members were elected, namely, W. M. Brooke, W. B. Doyle, A. C. McEown, H. McConnell, F. Holmes, J. A. Snell, R. B. Irvine, J. M. Keeler and H. G. Merkle. At present the Session has eighteen members, the above group with the exception of the last two and the following: M. J. Sexsmith, P. M. McCarrall, A. S. Walker, W. J. Small, W. J. Young, R. Hill, R. K. Baker, A. W. Cameron, L. L. Gallagher, J. G. Rayner, J. L. Stewart. Dr. Snell was elected first Clerk of Session and is now succeeded by R. B. Irvine.

The special function of the Session is to aid in the more directly spiritual work of the church. To this end it has appointed three committees namely, for music, pulpit supply and Sunday School and Young Peoples.

THE TRUSTEE BOARD

Church Trustees, as seen, were appointed by the first official meeting in 1886. A reading of their minutes through the years shows them not only concerned with such large projects as the erection of the series of church buildings, costing tens of thousands, but of such detailed minor yet essential matters as: "Organ purchased \$290," "baths and jacket heater installed \$135," "salary of choir leader \$2 per Sunday . . . caretaker \$6 per month," "screen to hide boy pumping the organ \$???" As most of the trustees were not only the spenders of the church's revenues but personally its chief supporters and sureties in case of debt we may be assured they scrutinized its accounts with wise caution. The continuity of the institution through the fifty years has depended greatly on their loyal services.

The members at present are: Chairman, Rev. C. M. Curtis; Secretary, A. W. Cameron; W. M. Brooke, E. S. Channell, G. L. Collard, W. B. Doyle, D. Fletcher, F. Holmes (Recording Steward), R. B. Irvine, H. McConnell, A. C. McEown, C. M. Miners, W. G. Perry, A. S. Walker, W. T. Woodley, W. J. Young. Of this body Mr. Brooke has been the Treasurer for 25 years, Mr. Doyle at present being also associated in that important office.

THE STEWARDS

The first meeting in August, 1886, appointed four men as Church Stewards. From the beginning they apparently had mild financial troubles. The second meeting in October records: "No financial returns. Bro. Smith promised to see the people . . . Resolved that a collection be taken monthly and that we write the Temperance Colonization Society in reference to the money promised for minister's support." The third meeting in May '87 reports: "Collections 80c, Bro. Mason on subscriptions \$15, Mrs. Fletcher same \$17 . . . Resolved that there being \$19.70 still owing on Mr. Wright's board, the Stewards collect that amount if possible." The sequel is unrecorded.

By 1888 the group was more ambitious. They determined to raise \$100 locally and appeal to the Mission Fund for \$400. Estimates call for board \$210, horse keep \$75, travel \$25, incidentals \$15, balance salary

\$175. Locally they exceeded expectations raising \$130. Unfortunately the Mission Board granted only \$313. Who met the deficit, the members or the missionary Mr. Peters, is not recorded.

By 1902, however, the group voted Rev. Arthur Barner \$660, all to be raised locally, payment to be made monthly by cheque, and thanked the Mission Board in Toronto for past aid. From that date Grace apparently went "on to perfection" financially. Her peak year was probably 1929 when there was raised for all purposes (aside from church building fund) the sum of \$15,400, paying her minister, the Rev. Dr. McTavish, a salary of \$3,765 the next year.

Mr. L. L. Gallagher acted as Treasurer from 1915 to 1931 and then F. G. Hopper until 1935. The present Board of Stewards are Chairman, C. M. Miners; Vice-Chairman, F. B. McEown; Secretary, A. G. Lamarsh; Treasurer, E. S. Hayter; Envelope Steward, J. E. Paul; G. L. Collard, W. A. Edwards, E. A. Hardy, G. W. Harrington, J. H. Hunter, F. Kidman, H. W. Parr, W. G. Perry, J. H. Sprague, W. J. Young, C. C. Nicholson, Thos. Kay.

THE BROTHERHOOD

Possibly most prominent among the men's organizations has been the "Brotherhood." It grew largely out of a discussion in a memorable Bible Class conducted by Dr. Ira A. MacKay regarding temperance. From its organization in 1912 it took a strong stand against the liquor traffic, in 1914 petitioning the government that all bars be closed during the war. Its members greatly rejoiced when the following February the premier announced that the bars would be closed on April 1st, 1915. Activities of the club have not been confined to this one issue. It has aided in beautifying the grounds around the building, in providing recreation for the men of the church and in conducting various religious, intellectual, and social meetings for the forwarding of good fellowship. Since its more recent reorganization the following have acted as presidents: W. J. Young, R. B. Irvine, S. S. Squarebriggs. F. B. McEown is at present President and Roger Strumm, Secretary.

Many workers not mentioned in recording the above activities are still held in loving memory for their gracious character and co-operation. These include Rev. John Doyle, Rev. Godfrey, Rev. J. R. Isaacs, Rev. Wm. Sexsmith, Rev. Hugh Cairns, Alvin Fletcher. C. M. Johnston, A. J. Whitfield, J. E. Mersman, Mr. and Mrs. Tupling, L. S. Parrott, Senior, Lindsay S. Parrott, Joseph Kirk, Prof. A. G. Grubb, R. P. Anderson, A. L. Vickers (President Insinger Club), Dr. and Mrs. Sparling, Mesdames S. Perry, A. J. Simmons, J. M. Keeler, (Rev.) Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maxwell, George D. Taylor, and a goodly company of others whose names though omitted here are assuredly found recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

WIDER ACTIVITIES

Grace Church has not restricted her services to those of her own immediate group through such activities as those noted above. A study of her fifty-year record shows her people struggling for many wider causes considered for the betterment of her age. In Sabbath Observ-

ance, they have loyally aided the Lord's Day Alliance. For dissemination of the Scriptures they have constantly supported the British and Foreign Bible Society. For charity they have continuously taken collections of money and goods for the poor, have aided hospitals and given generously to the Belgian Relief and various Flood and Famine Funds. In Evangelism appeals have not alone been made periodically from her pulpit and Sunday School Classes but regularly for many years special services were held with beneficent results. Rev. M. F. Eby, B.A., of Union Bay, B.C. and Rev. A. L. Day, B.Sc., of Guernsey, Sask., are among those from Grace now in the Christian ministry of the United Church.

Concerning co-operating with sister communions one writes of the earliest period: "There was real church union in those days, for Protestant, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist and Salvationist all met together in common worship, coming from a radius of twenty miles to the place of meeting." Indeed Grace became not alone the Mother Church of her own denomination in the growing city but to most of the other religious groups. Even when separate service began to be desired by the different denominations, some still held such in the same pioneer building to which they had given their contributions. When therefore Church Union in the more recent period was mooted, Grace entered most heartily into the movement.

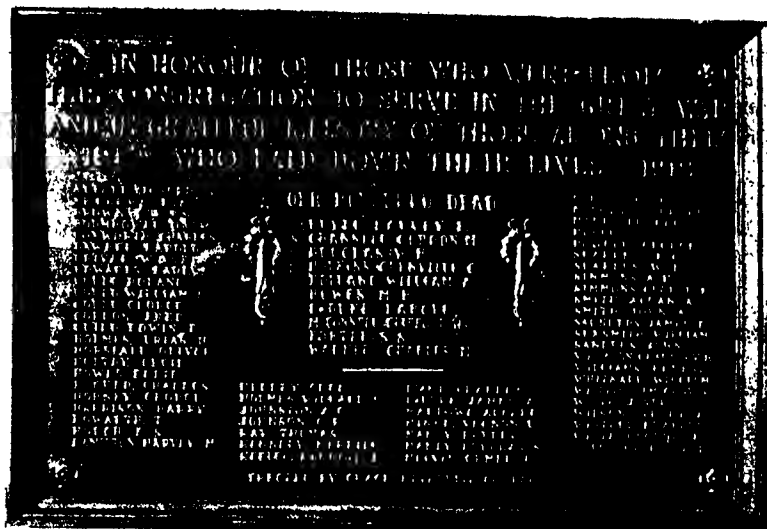
Regarding Temperance, the early colony and church were rooted in such a movement. The ministers and laymen of the churches, the Dominion Grange, the I.O.O.F. and other groups who conceived it looked for "an unbroken tract of land in the North-West Territories within which to begin a temperance colony." Material plans miscarried in that the Government later decided that alternate sections must be open for any homesteaders, etc. Yet the first settlers were almost invariably staunch temperance supporters and this spirit has been carried into the Grace Church group. Certain of her pastors and several of her laymen have been therefore, in the past, and continue still to be prominent leaders in the cause. A reading of the church's records reveal various struggles for the "Royal Templers of Temperance" and "the Cadets" to "Banish the Bar" and against "Beer by the Glass" and other related campaigns.

To few movements, if we may judge by her contributions, has Grace Church been more deeply consecrated than that of Missions. She apparently has not been unmindful of the struggling pioneer years when she was largely sustained by Home Mission Funds from the East. Nor as time has brought increase in numbers and resources has she failed to study and support the wider campaign for the Christianizing of the World. To this great cause her membership have contributed generously through the years, the year 1930 just before our great depression recording a contribution to the Missionary and Maintenance Funds of over \$5,000. It is not surprising therefore that various missionary families as those of Rev. Dr. C. S. Eby, of Japan, and others from India, China, and many Home Mission fields have found in Grace Church a sympathetic church home. Miss Lulu Barr from Grace is now serving

in Japan, while Miss Florence Kirk and Dr. E. N. Meuser are out in China. Miss Muriel Gould also served in the latter field.

PATRIOTISM

In patriotism and especially in the crucial testing time of the Great World War, the members and adherents of this church were not found wanting in service and in sacrifice. Families observed loyally the restrictions demanded. Women applied themselves to various tasks to alleviate the sufferings of their men at the front, and men undertook many forms of service. Some 70 of her bravest and best were found in the front line trenches. Of these 10 made the supreme sacrifice. In grateful memory their names stand engraved upon a tablet on her walls, herewith reproduced. This should also include in its list of "Men who Served", the name of Percival E. C. Ecob, who courageously and efficiently served his church as he did his country.

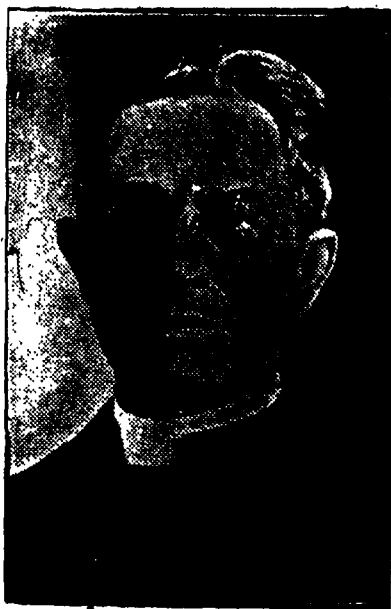


Men Who Served

Let us close this brief sketch of Fifty Years of Grace Church on these Frontiers with gratitude to Almighty God for his continued Goodness, with thanksgiving for the worthy women and brave men who out of their poverty as pioneers founded this church and others who have carried its varied activities forward unflinching through the years, and with the prayer that war's fierce arbitrament may never again call us and our sons to share its awful shambles but that we and they may march ever forward to conquest of self and the world under the banner for human betterment of the Prince of Peace!



Rev. James M. Wright
The First Preacher, 1886-1887



Rev. G. H. Bennie



Rev. George Marshall



Rev. Arthur Barner, D.D.



Rev. J. W. Pratt, B.A.



**Rev. Charles Endicott, D.D.
Anniversary Preacher, Nov. 1, 1936**



Rev. R. Lorne McTavish, D.D.

Messages From Former Ministers

253 Park Avenue,
Brantford, Ont.,
October 20, 1936.

R. B. Irvine,
428 Tenth Street,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In the first place, I would like to convey my congratulations to the congregation of Grace church. Fifty years ago last July I reached Saskatoon after a drive of three hundred miles with a pony and buckboard during a considerable portion of the journey. I preached in a little frame schoolhouse. I recall readily a number of the names of the folk there then: Eby, Dulmage, Smith, Clark, the Goodwin boys, the Willoughby brothers, and many others. I boarded with Mrs. J. Fletcher. I preached twice at Saskatoon and also at Clark's Crossing each Sunday, and conducted a Bible Class on Wednesday nights. During the winter I had a severe illness which left my eyes so affected that I had to go to Toronto for treatment and the specialist there forbade my return to the West. However, I was able to carry on here in the Hamilton conference until twelve years ago when my sight left me and I was compelled to retire from the active work. I still preach very frequently. I have learned to read the Braille and to type. I am sorry not to have a cut but will enclose a photo even though it is somewhat the worse for wear. I trust that you may have a very delightful and profitable anniversary and continued blessing and success in the days to come. It is a little difficult for me to think of the Saskatoon that I knew fifty years ago growing to its present proportions.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES M. WRIGHT.

* * *

(The first meeting of the then organized Quarterly Board is signed in a fine strong hand, "Jas. M. Wright (Superintendent of Mission), Secretary Pro-tem." Grace rejoices to greet her pioneer pastor after the fifty years and extends her sincerest sympathy in his affliction).

REV. FREDERICK W. HODGSON (1887-1888)

The Rev. Mr. Hodgson brought his greetings in person comparatively recently when he visited the Eby family and other old friends in Saskatoon. He is now retired in California, but carries his 78 years youthfully, "stands over six feet and weighs 175 pounds." He was

born in Ontario of U.E.L. stock and served as a teacher there before coming to the frontier as a missionary in Saskatoon. He recalled that there were less than 50 persons in the village in his day, but he was very fond of boys and managed to chum with them on many a not exactly church occasion. During his recent visit, we read: "He talked of God and the Bible and how he trusted God implicitly for everything. After a long life's testing he found Jesus Christ the best friend he had ever made, one who had been more, very much more, than any brother could be." That same faith and friend he would doubtless recommend to the greatly enlarged group, that meets in Grace today.

JOHN PETERS (1888-1890)

Saskatoon, Sask.,
October 7th, 1936.

Dear Friends,—

After fifty years of faithful service for the Kingdom of God in this community we greet Grace Church with loving regard in this her Jubilee year.

From very small and humble beginnings she has steadily grown to her present splendid proportions. Her place in the community today is but one evidence of the faithful devotion of the men and women who have labored throughout the years for her success. Our prayer for her is that she may so uphold the banner of the cross that her sons and daughters may continue to rise up and call her blessed.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE H. BENNEE,
Student-Preacher,
(1890-1891).

2061 East Fourth Avenue,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
September 8th, 1936.

To the Members and Friends,
Grace United Church,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Friends,—

I rejoice with you all in the celebration of the Jubilee of your church. Fifty years is a long period in so young a country as Canada, and the work begun so long ago in the little village on the banks of the Saskatchewan has borne great fruit for God.

It was my privilege to be minister of the Methodist Church at Saskatoon from July 1st, 1891, to June 30th, 1892. I well remember riding into the village on my little pony, after nearly a week in the

saddle, from Regina. It was good to receive a hearty welcome and to know that I was among friends.

I still have happy memories of my year in Saskatoon, and rejoice in the friendships made in those days. I pay sincere tribute to those pioneers; as a young student for the ministry, commencing work on his first field, I met kindness and sympathy from all, and the records of those days are still treasured in my diaries.

It is splendid to know that a band of faithful workers carries on the work of God in the pioneer organization, and the new Grace Church, opened in 1928, is a triumph of faith and works.

May God continue to bless you all and make Grace Church a power for good and for God.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR E. ROBERTS.
(1891-1892)

W. A. SIPPRELL (1892-1893)

EGBERT GREGORY (1893-1894)

3035 Victoria Avenue,
Regina, Sask.,
Oct. 13th, 1936.

My Dear Sir and Brother,—

I hope you will kindly pardon the delay in answering your communication regarding your cordial invitation to attend the Fiftieth Anniversary of Grace Church. I had thought it possible to be with you on this very special occasion, but continued ill-health prevents both Mrs. Bethell and myself from being present.

However, we both cordially congratulate the congregation of Grace United Church on having reached this milestone of splendid spiritual progress, and that in the years to be, many or few, may the people of this church of blessed memory enter the beginning of the second half of a century with abiding faith in God, and the still greater advancements that find their springs in such a faith as this.

Mrs. Bethell then greets you as the first minister's bride, also the occasion of the first wedding in Grace Church, and I do likewise as its first ordained minister. Kindly remember us to the pioneers that remain. We have great reason never to forget their loyalty and kindness during the privations of pioneer days, but happy days, nevertheless.

Again I wish you every blessing.

T. G. BETHELL.
(1894-1896).

Snowflake, Man.,
October 5th, 1936.

Mr. R. B. Irvine,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Sir,—

Yours of recent date to hand. I congratulate you, sir, and the boards, congregation, and pastor of Grace Church on the very fine church you have erected to the glory of God and the good of the people on the old site of the former Grace Church which I had the privilege of serving as pastor for four years. It would be a delight for me to be present at your fiftieth anniversary occasion, but time and distance forbids. However, it gives me pleasure to recall many incidents of these former years. Although names flit out of the memory until a person is in the environment again, and then, I doubt not but that I should recall many faces and names.

My immediate predecessor was I believe, Rev. Mr. Bethel. He announced on his retirement my going to take charge of the church. From the pulpit he said, "My successor is Rev. John Linton who has one wife and one child." So the joke was on me for a while after I arrived at Saskatoon. I met a very kind, sympathetic, and good people at old Grace Church. I was loth to go at first, but was sorry to leave at the end of four years.

I also preached at Dundurn and the Moosewoods Reserve once a month and at Smithville on Sabbath afternoons every Sunday. It gives me much joy to know that you have now such a useful and permanent church for the carrying on of Christian work, built upon the foundation principles enunciated by such men as Rev. Barner, Rev. Bethel, and others before and after them and of which I had an humble part.

I wish for the pastor and congregation the greatest joy and happiness on your fiftieth anniversary occasion and trust that Grace Church as from its inception until now has been to the comfort and saving of many souls, will still stand on the old site to the praise and worship of Almighty God for generations yet unborn.

Very truly yours in Christian fellowship,

JOHN LINTON.
(1896-1900).

411 Dominion Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
September 11th, 1936.

Message for Grace Church on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary.

Naturally half a century brings many memories to those who can look so far into the past but my knowledge of Grace Church, Saskatoon, in a personal way, goes back only a little more than thirty-six years when my wife and I drove over one hundred miles of practically uninhabited territory, in a top buggy behind "Billy and Nelly," to enter upon

our pastorate of three years. We have ample memories within that time to provide material for a lengthy article but that is not desired. A few of them must be mentioned however, for instance the kindly welcome given to us by Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell who made us as members of their own household until we could find a dwelling to be called "parsonage"; the concrete church building in which so many times of refreshing were experienced from the presence of the Lord; the extent of appointments on the mission including Smithville, Floral, the Whitecap Indian Reserve and Dundurn; the far-flung territory which was ours as a Methodist Parish extending to Duck Lake in the north, the Alberta boundary in the west and as far south and east as any other Methodist minister was stationed. This territory within four years found eight mission fields mapped out. There was the great influx of settlers from the United States of America and other parts which contributed to the growth of many settlements. There was the increase of population in Saskatoon itself from 113 souls in 1900 to 1,200 souls in 1903. Then the coming of the Barr Colony and personal visitation of them in "tent town on the river bank" with subsequent visitation in what is now Lloydminster forms a unique experience. We opened services on "the other side of the river" and used the Dulmage Hall as a place of worship. Last, but not least, there was the happy co-operation in work with the Presbyterian ministers Rev. J. Rex. Brown and Rev. Andrew Little, who were brothers beloved and are now brothers within the United Church of Canada.

Mrs. Barner and I have watched, with deep interest, the growth and development of your work, and we have often enjoyed the fellowship of your services during visits to the city. In all the intervening years of separation and travel, you have never been forgotten.

As we think of the future we wish you continued and greater prosperity in the deepest meaning of the term. I have had the conviction for many years that the next great spiritual revival will take place within the membership of the Christian church. That remarkable Christian leader Dr. Kagawa says, "We cannot go farther until we go deeper." Our prayer is that Grace Church may be a leader in this forward movement of Christianity. Mrs. Barner joins me in kindest wishes.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR BARNER.

(1900-1903).

G. H. CHANT (1903-1904)

F. ATKINSON (1904-1905)

The Manse, Nipawin, Sask.,
September 29th, 1936.

R. B. Irvine, Esq.,
Clerk of Session, Grace Church,
Saskatoon.

Dear Friend,—

We have good authority that we should "rejoice with them that rejoice," and I freely join with all those who celebrate with rejoicing the fiftieth anniversary of your church. My connection with Grace Church thirty years ago was a joyous privilege then, and is now a cherished memory. It seems in retrospect to have been a time of small events, as compared with your present year of church attainments and objectives. But the spirit of devotion and faithfulness in the things of the Kingdom has on grown and developed and extended, to match the increasing growth and opportunity of your fair city, which came to birth thirty years ago, when we worshipped in your white-cast church. "What hath God wrought" in these intervening years of grace? I can only say that I am proud to share in this Jubilee thanksgiving. To ministers and office bearers, and also members and adherents may I say, "God bless you, every one." And I shall pray and hope that the future history of Grace Church will be as worthy and fruitful, as the best and most glorious years of the past. You have a "goodly heritage"—may it prove a still richer heritage for those who shall follow on. "Speak to the children of Grace, that they Go Forward."

Very cordially yours,

GEO. MARSHALL.
(1905-1907).

PETER WEBSTER (1907-1908)

Zion United' Church,
Moose Jaw, Sask.,
October 8th, 1936.

Dear Mr. Irvine,—

When I came to Saskatoon, in 1908, I was told that the little stone church in Nutana was the first Protestant church to be built between Moose Jaw and Prince Albert. I am glad that the first church to which a Canadian conference appointed me was one of such historic interest. 1908 was about the beginning of the expansion period. It was that year the C.P.R. passenger trains first came into Saskatoon, and out again toward the west. The Goose Lake line was being built. People began to pour into the prairie country contiguous to Saskatoon. The churches shared in the development. I was probationer in charge of the Nutana Methodist Church, 1908-1910. During those years the membership doubled. In the first year we put an extension to the old building. In the second year we laid the foundation of a new structure. Among the many memories of those years were trustee meetings held at 8 a.m.

by busy city builders, and congregations which not only filled the church and the porch, but stood on the board walk back to the street.

There are other memories too. It was in the church building I first met Miss McConnell who became Mrs. Pratt. It was during that time the University was established in Saskatoon. Ten years of coal mining was no sort of preparation for a university course, but youth is hopeful, and my stay in Grace helped me to partially overcome early educational disadvantages. The encouragement and support given me by the Grace Church people in those two years are among the happiest memories of my life.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. PRATT.
(1908-1910).

First United Church of Canada,
Waterloo, Ont., Oct. 6th, 1936.

Grace United Church of Canada,
Saskatoon, Sask.

My dear people of that other day so fragrant with many happy memories: Greetings!

When I call to remembrance your faith; your courage and your abundant works in the gospel my heart is greatly strengthened. You were among the first of the churches to seek to apply your faith in Christ to the practical questions of civic righteousness and moral reform. Well do I remember that historic night, when the entire manhood of the church gathered about the altar to dedicate their lives before God to high citizenship, and how you went out from that meeting to inaugurate the Banish the Bar Movement in Saskatchewan. What a victory it was!

But the church faces a more crucial hour now. The powers of paganism are on the march. In the old lands they have taken the form of political policies and philosophic idealisms. In our country up to the present it is a mere careless drift but that drift is in danger of robbing the church of vision and power. While this is going on Satan is busy driving a wedge between the two great sections of humanity known as the classes and the masses. We may call them modern names, fascism and communism, but the ugly fact is the same. This struggle is at the heart of every difficulty and confusion in Europe. It has destroyed democracy, that principle for which our brave dead fought, over wide areas. We in Canada can erect but one barrier against its progress here. That barrier is a Christian Church aflame, aggressive and revolutionary.

A changed social order having in it equity, justice and brotherhood can only be foundationed on changed individuals. The unregenerate man has little to offer for the solution of the world's problems today. He may try one little system after another, "they will have their day and cease to be," with all their resultant confusion and shame. We

must get back to God. That is the job of the church. One day a young man came to Jesus and asked him to divide the inheritance between him and his brother. The answer of Jesus may seem very disheartening to many who recognize this as the major question of our civilization today when he said, "Who made me a divider?" Then with startling suddenness he seemed to drop the problem there and turn to another as he cried, "Beware of Covetousness." But Jesus knew there could be no brotherly division of the world's good things that could be equitable and just, as long as that disease was eating at the heart of humanity. Only a gospel of redemption and regeneration can heal the nations.

God has committed that gospel to the Christian church. Your congregation is a vital unit in that church. My desire and prayer for you is that pulpit and pew alike may so preach that gospel, that it will heal your city and from there reach out to the regions beyond. May God be gracious unto you. May He make His face to shine upon you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Your former minister,

E. VAL TILTON.
(1910-1914).

R. H. LEITCH (1914-1915), (Deceased)

H. T. LEWIS (1915-1916), (Deceased)

308 Birks Building
Saskatoon, Sask.

Grace Church, Saskatoon.

For twenty years of the fifty it has been my privilege to be associated with Grace Church. My hearty congratulations and good wishes are extended. We have faced difficulties many times but there has always been a great loyalty to the Church and there are those who have made great sacrifices for it. Some noble souls who were associated with it have passed to their reward, others are filling important positions in a wonderful way far from Saskatoon and those who remain I believe will continue to give their loyal support to the church that has been an inspiration to many who are trying to extend the Kingdom of God in Canada and throughout the world.

C. ENDICOTT.
(1916-1920).

CHARLES W. BROWN, B.A., D.D. (1920-1924), (Deceased)

Zion Tabernacle,
United Church of Canada,
Hamilton, Ontario.

To the Minister and People of Grace Church,—

As one who for eight years shared the delightful fellowship of Grace Church, I rejoice with you on the occasion of your Jubilee Celebration.

The religious foundations of the community, which in the course of the intervening years has grown to be the City of Saskatoon, were well and truly laid by those sturdy pioneers, who with their leader, John Lake, camped on the banks of the Saskatchewan, and gave to Saskatoon its birth and its name. The community was still in its infancy when they gathered the material and erected and dedicated on the site of the present Grace Church, the first place of public worship.

For fifty years a noble succession of witnesses have kept alight the fires of devotion thus kindled. To you they have left a heritage that must fill your hearts with profound gratitude and at the same time be an incentive to you to maintain the spiritual glow and the enterprise that ever marked the progress of these founders and builders of Grace Church.

In the midst of the Jubilee rejoicing I turn my gaze backward to look upon this "cloud of witnesses" and as I do I fancy I can hear them as they unite in a message which they commission me to bring to you, and this is what I hear: "Speak to the children of the Church we founded, that they Go Forward!"

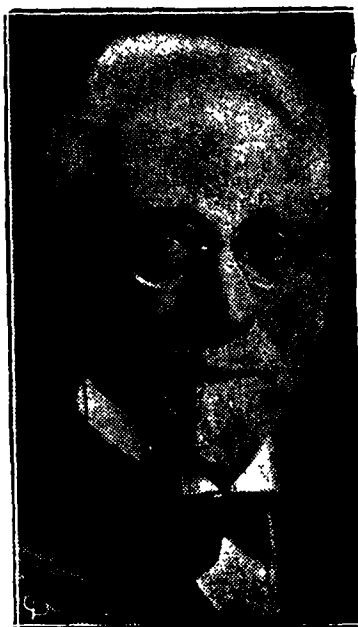
With heartiest good wishes and sincere affection in all of which Mrs. McTavish and the girls join me.

R. LORNE MCTAVISH.
(1924-1932).

To the Members and Adherents of Grace Church:

As I look back over the past four years and think of my ministry with you, of the friendships formed, of the service which the people have given, I am convinced that the Officials and Members of this Church display a courage equal to that shown in earlier days. When one considers the spirit with which the difficulties of recent years have been met it can readily be seen that the application of the Teachings of the Master has received due recognition. As we look with gratitude at the achievements of Grace Church during the past 50 years let us resolve to make the future even more glorious than the past so that in the years to come there may be just as great a cause for rejoicing as we find today.

C. M. CURTIS.
(1932-).



Rev. Geo. W. Kerby, D.D.;
Principal, Mount Royal College, Calgary
Anniversary Preacher, Evening, Nov. 8, 1936

229